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1742

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/540,365  
Applicants : Hiroshi MORIKAWA et al.  
Filed : June 23, 2005  
Title : WORK-HARDENED MATERIAL FROM STAINLESS STEEL  
Art Unit : 1742  
Examiner Name : Not Yet Assigned  
Confirmation No. : 3495  
Customer No. : 28289

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit this Information Disclosure Statement together with a completed Form PTO/SB/08A.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 11, 2006.

Bruce L. White  
(Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee)  
Bruce L. White 08/11/2006  
Signature Date

Application No. 10/540,365  
Paper Dated: August 11, 2006  
Attorney Docket No. 2204-051771

Japanese patents JP 63-169330, JP 11-302791, and JP 2001-262282 are discussed in the Applicants' specification on pages 1-2 and are relevant for reasons discussed therein. English-language abstracts of these patents are included herewith.

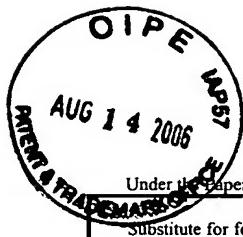
In addition, Japanese patents JP 4-65141, JP 2-18379, JP 8-246105, JP 5-255816, and JP 2002-194505 were cited in an International Search Report (ISR) dated November 16, 2004. These references have all been designated as "Category A" references in the ISR, indicating that they are not considered to be of particular relevance. Furthermore, the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER) dated November 16, 2004, indicates that the claims in the PCT application meet the international standards of patentability. A courtesy copy of the ISR and IPER are enclosed herewith for the Examiner's convenience.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), no fee is believed to be due for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement as it is being submitted before a first Office Action on the merits. Nevertheless, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-0650. One (1) original and two (2) copies of this Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

THE WEBB LAW FIRM

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## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	2204-051771

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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